



E-NEWSLETTER

January 21, 2016

From The City of Sea Isle City, New Jersey

COASTAL STORM HEADING TO SEA ISLE:

Sea Isle City is bracing for an extremely powerful Nor'easter starting late Friday night (January 22) through Sunday morning (January 24). While heavy snow may be associated with this storm, the main threat to our community is moderate to major flooding at the times of high tide, which will be around 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Saturday and around 9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. There will also be strong, gusting winds associated with this storm.

Sea Isle City's Office of Emergency Management asks that you prepare your property against strong winds and flooding. Move vehicles to higher ground. Stay indoors. Do not attempt to drive through flooded waters as emergency personnel may not be able to assist you at peak tides. If you are a secondary homeowner, please wait for the storm to pass before coming down to inspect your property.

Should you need to be evacuated, please call the Sea Isle City Police Department at (609) 263-4311, ext. 0. Should you have an emergency at any time, please call 911.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE:

As you may be aware, more than two years ago the City was approached by representatives from Verizon Communications, who expressed the desire to erect a new wireless telecommunications pole in Sea Isle City - necessary to ensure reliable cellular data service for our residents and visitors (especially during the busy summer season). The technical needs for the pole dictated that it be within a relatively limited geographic area. Proceeding with the best intentions for our citizenry, and understanding the feasible locations for the pole which would provide for delivery of reliable cellular service, the City initially considered allowing placement of the pole within Dealy field, in accordance with current zoning provisions. That location, adjacent to the city maintenance building located to the west of the little league baseball field, was approved by both City Council and the local Planning Board. However, due to the anticipated difficulties in securing additional state and federal approvals that are required on the Dealy field site, Verizon suggested that an alternate site may be preferable, with the understanding that their cellular needs were limited to specific locations in the city. Based on this, the administration presented the ordinance to re-zone the city property directly to the south of Dealy field (westward of the 63rd and Central intersection) from a residential zone designation to a public zone designation. The intent of the re-zoning was to allow placement of the cell pole, along with properly designating that particular parcel of public property. There was never an intent or plan to eliminate the driveway access that exists to the properties situated on the southwest corner of 63rd and Central; and there was never an intent to eliminate public parking at that location.

After receiving negative feedback from a number of property owners regarding the proposed re-zoning and potential placement of a cell pole at the aforementioned property along 63rd Street, and in consideration of the expressed concerns, at the January 26th city council meeting the Administration will recommend withdraw of the re-zoning ordinance introduced at the January 5th council meeting. For all intents and purposes, this will essentially eliminate the ability to place a cell pole at the 63rd Street location. This does not eliminate the potential placement of a cell pole at the original site within Dealy Field previously approved by city council and the planning board. Despite the concerns that have been raised about the cell pole, and the negative feedback concerning the 63rd Street location, the manner in which this situation was presented to the public and the subsequent handling of the matter represents our government democracy in action. It's a great example of community participation and of your elected officials listening carefully to those they serve. I thank all those members of the public who have engaged in this process, along with City Council and the volunteer members of our Planning Board, for once again showing the true nature and spirit of Sea Isle.

In regard to one of our most critical projects, it appears that in a matter of days additional sand will begin to be pumped onto Sea Isle's north-end. The Beach Replenishment Project that is currently underway in Strathmere, which was authorized to replace sand that was lost during the October 2015 Nor'easter, is hurtling along at a rapid pace southward to Sea Isle City. If all goes well, work might begin in our north-end as early as next week. Additionally, it is anticipated that authorization will be given by federal and state officials to widen the original design of our beaches by 50-feet between 25th and 50th Street, resulting in an increase of approximately 150,000 extra cubic yards of sand – which means we will be getting more than 500,000 cubic yards of new sand overall as part of this refill. Obviously, this is good news for Sea Isle's shore protection efforts – and anyone who enjoys spending time on the beach.

Some of you may be wondering how the current beach fill project might affect this year's Polar Bear Plunge, which takes place in February during President's Weekend. If all goes as planned, the City anticipates that the beach fill will be completed in our downtown area prior to plunge weekend. However, if the beach fill does not proceed as quickly as expected, a contingency plan will be put into motion to move the plunge from 40th Street to the closest possible beach – thus ensuring the plunge's success.

Smile...You're in Sea Isle!

Mayor Leonard C. Desiderio

CITY COUNCIL'S MESSAGE:

As mentioned in the Mayor's Message, the City Council did introduce Ordinance No. 1585 on January 5, 2016. As required by law, all zoning Ordinances must be reviewed by the Planning Board for Master Plan Consistency; i.e. would a zoning change of the lot at 63rd Street adjacent to Dealy Field from R-2 to P-3 be consistent with the Planning Boards Master Plan. The Planning Board reviewed the Ordinance at its 1/11/2016 meeting and, due to the effort to get the notice out in a timely manner to the surrounding property owners, the meeting was well attended and the overwhelming consensus was that the residents did not support a change in the zoning that may ultimately permit at cell tower at the location.

The Planning Board did its due diligence as required by law. It reviewed the Ordinance for master plan consistence. It did NOT adopt an ordinance or any plan from Verizon for a cell tower.

The Ordinance is scheduled for second reading and public hearing on 1/26/2015 and the Administration has indicated it will recommend the ordinance be withdrawn due to the response at the Planning Board meeting and the large number of e-mails and phone messages received by the Council members. The City Council will consider the recommendation seriously and will listen to the residents comments during the upcoming meeting as well as all those who have expressed opposition before taking a vote.

Additionally on the 1/26/2016 agenda is second reading and public hearing on Ordinance No. 1584 which was created to re-institute Floor Area Ratio (FAR) at .8 in new residential structures.

At the next Council meeting, February 9, 2016, the Mayor will present the 2016 budget to the City Council. A follow-up budget workshop has been scheduled for February 11, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Best regards from the members of City Council,

Council President Jack Gibson (jjgibson@seaislecitynj.us)

John Divney (jdivney@seaislecitynj.us)

Frank Edwardi (fedwardijr@seaislecitynj.us)

Bill Kehner (wkehner@seaislecitynj.us)

Mary Tighe (mtighe@seaislecitynj.us)

PROJECT UPDATES:

Beach Replenishment:

Initial replenishment of all beaches in Sea Isle has been completed, with nearly two million cubic yards of sand placed along Sea Isle's shoreline. The City has been informed that additional refilling of beaches eroded by the early October nor'easter has been authorized by the federal government from the north end of Sea Isle to 56th Street. Refilling of Ludlam Island began in early January at the northern end of the island in Strathmere and has proceeded south toward Sea Isle City. The beach replenishment project is expected to reach Sea Isle's north-end next week. Beach fill on Ludlam Island should be complete by March.

Utility Reconstruction, 36th & 37th Streets (fall 2015 construction):

On March 26, 2015, City Council awarded a bid to Garden State General Construction in the amount of \$431,353.40 for the utility reconstruction of 36th Street & 37th Street, from Cini Street to Landis Avenue. As of this date, work on 36th Street has been completed (including four new fire hydrants) and the excavated area has been patched. On 37th Street from Central to Landis, the main has been installed and it is expected that the laterals will be installed by Friday. Please be aware of detours in this area.

Utility Reconstruction, various streets:

On October 27, 2015, City Council awarded a bid to RTW Construction of Southampton, New Jersey, in the amount of \$744,713 for utility reconstruction at the following locations:

47th Street from Landis Avenue to Promenade

49th Street from Landis Avenue to Promenade

65th Street from Landis Avenue to Central Avenue

65th Street from Landis Avenue to Pleasure Avenue

69th Street from Landis Avenue to Central Avenue

76th Street from Landis Avenue to Pleasure Avenue

Initial work to install new sanitary main and new water main on 47th is completed. Initial work to install new water main on 49th is completed. Initial work to install new sanitary main on 49th is under way. Once the new water mains pass various testing, work will begin to reconstruct water services and sewer laterals to the individual homes on these streets.

Bulkhead Construction, 80th Street and 93rd Street:

On August 25, 2015, City Council awarded a contract to Colonnelli Brothers, Inc. of Hackensack, New Jersey, in the amount of \$199,880 for the construction of bulkheads at 80th and 93rd Streets. This project is currently on hold due to availability of materials.

Sea Isle Boulevard (no change from last update):

The Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders, at their May 13, 2014 meeting, awarded a \$12.7 million contract to South State, Inc. for the Sea Isle Boulevard Improvement project that will raise the roadway by approximately 4.5 feet and otherwise reconstruct Sea Isle Boulevard.

Traffic has been diverted to the south side of the boulevard; and the contractor has placed fill on the north side of the causeway to an average height of about 6.5 feet, which is 2 feet higher than the eventual height of the completed roadway. The additional 2 feet, which will be removed prior to the next construction phase, is surcharge to compress the underlying layers of soil. The goal is to obtain as much settlement as possible prior to paving on top of the new fill. Now that this initial phase of fill placement is completed, the project will be dormant except for some maintenance activities such as cleaning accumulating sand in the diversionary roadway, and taking measurements to determine the amount of settlement that is occurring.

Motorists are advised to be aware of the revised traffic patterns in the construction zone and the reduced speed limit.

There are no activities planned for Sea Isle Boulevard until next spring with the exception of the County Road Department mowing the south side.

Streetscape Improvement on Landis Avenue:

On September 8, 2015, City Council awarded a bid to Think Pavers Hardscaping of Swedesboro, NJ, in the amount of \$796,648.33 for streetscape improvements on Landis Avenue from 43rd Street to 39th Street. This project will include various aspects of beautification, which includes new sidewalks, paver crosswalks, traffic striping, lighting, sod, stone mulching, various tree plantings & tree grates, benches and bike racks. The block from JFK to 40th Street was previously completed as part of the JFK Gateway Project.

Work began on the east side of Landis Avenue between 39th and 40th Streets, removing old sidewalks and clearing the site. The Electrician is currently installing foundations and electrical conduit for the proposed new street lighting. Work in this block is expected to be completed before the "Polar Bear Plunge" in February.

Townsend's Inlet Bridge (no change from last update):

The south approach to the Townsend's Inlet Bridge in Avalon is undergoing reconstruction to make the roadway more resilient against damage from future storms. Superstorm Sandy destroyed the roadway and a temporary repair was made to have the roadway reopen to traffic for the 2013 summer tourist season. The County has had to repair this approach roadway three times since 2007 due to damage from waves overtopping the seawall.

The current project consists of constructing a line of steel sheet piling along both edges of pavement and casting a reinforced concrete slab between the sheet piling and incorporating the sheet piling into the concrete. The new concrete roadway will be able to withstand the destructive nature of the overtopping waves unlike the current asphalt pavement. Behind the seawall there will be an area of open graded riprap stone that will permit most of the water from the overtopping waves to drain back through to the ocean instead of over the roadway. The bayside slopes will be reconstructed with riprap stone to protect the roadway and reduce the impact of the waves from the bayside. The project also includes some reconstruction of the south abutment to the Townsend's Inlet Bridge.

The work at the south abutment to the bridge requires the roadway to be closed because the narrow width of the bridge makes it impossible to maintain traffic. **The bridge is currently closed, and is scheduled to remain closed through February 11, 2016 (bridge is expected to be opened for Polar Bear Plunge weekend).** The contractor plans to work double shifts during this period of time in order to substantially complete the entire project. Following Polar Bear Plunge weekend, the roadway will remain open, with the possibility of one lane closures for the contractor to complete any required work. In any event, all work will be completed and the roadway fully open by March 15, 2016.

By proceeding in the above manner, the bridge project will be able to be completed in one winter season, as opposed to the previous plan which would have required two seasons to complete.

MASTER PLAN RE-EXAMINATION:

The Planning Board held a special meeting on January 13 to continue its review of our current land use laws. The group spent the entire evening reviewing the current boundaries and uses in our commercial (mixed use) zones. The final report of the night's efforts is not completed at this time, but is expected to be part of the next newsletter.

The Board also decided to schedule another special meeting for Wednesday, February 17, in order to continue the review of the Land Use section of the Master Plan. We will include the specific topics for discussion that night in our next newsletter.

City Council will hold a public hearing and vote on the recently introduced ordinance to reinstate the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) at the 0.8 level at their January 26 meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

POLAR BEAR PRINCE & PRINCES CONTEST: Friday, February 12, 7:00 p.m., LaCosta Lounge, JFK Boulevard and Landis Avenue (<http://www.seaislechamber.com> or 609-263-9090).

POLAR BEAR KING & QUEEN CONTEST: Friday, February 12, 9:00 p.m., LaCosta Lounge, JFK Boulevard and Landis Avenue (<http://www.lacosta-seaisle.com> or 609-263-3611).

POLAR BEAR COSTUME CONTEST: Saturday, February 13, 12 noon, LaCosta Lounge, JFK Boulevard and Landis Avenue (<http://www.lacosta-seaisle.com> or 609-263-3611).

POLAR BEAR PLUNGE: Saturday, February 13, 2:00 p.m., 40th Street Beach (<http://www.lacosta-seaisle.com> or 609-263-3611).

MIKE'S SEAFOOD POLAR BEAR RUN / WALK FOR AUTISM: Sunday, February 14, 12 noon, JFK Boulevard and the Promenade (<http://www.polarbearrunwalkforautism.com> or 609-602-5734).

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE & CELEBRATION: Saturday, March 12, 3:30 p.m. The Parade runs along Landis Avenue from 82nd to 63rd Street. Irish Celebration immediately after the parade at KIX on 63rd Street (<http://www.kixmcnutleys.com> or 609-263-6341).

GIVE BLOOD ON JANUARY 28:

The American Red Cross will host a Blood Drive on January 28, 1:00 – 6:00 p.m., inside Sea Isle's United Methodist Church on JFK Boulevard at Central Avenue. Walk-ins are welcome, but pre-registration is appreciated. To register, visit <http://www.redcrossblood.org> (enter Sponsor Code "sea isle umc") or phone 800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767). For more info, please phone event organizer Norma Poole at 263-8025.

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CASINO NIGHT FUND RAISER:

The P.T.A. of Bishop McHugh Regional School will host their annual Casino Night on Saturday, February 20, at the Ocean Drive Bar & Restaurant, 40th and Landis Avenue, starting at 6:00 p.m. The entrance fee is \$40 per person, which includes a buffet dinner, gaming money and entertainment. The evening will feature Las Vegas-style gambling, raffles with terrific prizes and silent auctions. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance at Bishop McHugh Regional School on Route 9. For more info, phone 609-624-1900, ext. 21.

EXERCISE CLASSES & REC PROGRAMS:

AEROBICS:

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:00 a.m., Welcome Center Community Lodge, \$5 per class or \$40 for ten classes (263-0050).

SIT-AND-BE-FIT FOR SENIORS:

Wednesdays and Fridays at 2:15 p.m., Welcome Center Community Lodge. No fee required; please bring photo i.d. (263-0050).

YOGA:

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. and Fridays at 7:30 a.m. in the Welcome Center Community Lodge. Fee: \$10 per class (www.njbeachyoga.com or 602-3398).

PLEASE NOTE: The City's Division of Recreation offers a variety of programs each month – ranging from children's art and cooking classes to Walk Away the Pounds, Basketball and Volleyball nights and "Open Gym" in the gymnasium of the former public school building on Park Road. As of January 25, Open Gym hours will be extended into the evening on weeknights. Please phone the Recreation Office at 263-0050 for more information about open gym and all other recreation activities.

ORGANIZATIONS & MEETING SCHEDULES:

A.A.R.P. CHAPTER 710: Second Thursday of the month, 1:00 p.m., Community Lodge (263-1453)

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: Third Thursday of the month (September to November and March to May), 2:00 p.m., Welcome Center Meeting Room (263-7758 or 263-3914)

BOY SCOUT TROOP 76: Fridays, 5:30 p.m., former Public School Gymnasium, 4501 Park Road (263-5370).

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & REVITALIZATION: First Tuesday of the Month, 9:00 a.m., City Council Chambers, City Hall (263-9090).

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION: Second Wednesday of the month (March to November), 7:00 p.m., Public Works Building, 3905 Central Avenue (263-2081)

GARDEN CLUB: First Thursday of the month (March to June and September to December), 7:00 p.m., Community Lodge (263-3331).

PLANNING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS: Second Monday of the month (except holidays), 7:00 p.m., City Hall (263-1166)

SEA ISLE CATS INC.: Visit the Crooked Tail Thrift Shop, 4208 Landis Avenue, for meeting times and dates (609-972-5887)

S.I.C.T.A.: Second Saturday of the month, 10:00 a.m., Community Lodge (263-6817).

S.I.C. SCHOOL BOARD: School Board Meetings take place on various dates at 7:00 p.m. in the former Public School Building, 4501 Park Road. The next School Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 26 (263-6142).

WOMEN'S CIVIC CLUB: Every Tuesday, 11:30 a.m., Community Lodge (263-8149).

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS: First Monday of the month (except holidays), 7:00 p.m., City Hall (263-1166).

TRASH & RECYCLING INFO:

Curbside trash and recycling collections currently take place once each week on the following streets:

1st to 44th Street = Wednesdays

45th to 70th Street = Mondays

71st to 94th Street = Tuesdays

Don't Forget: The City will not collect carpeting or other construction materials, propane tanks, tires or batteries. Sea Isle City is a Single Stream Recycling Community, which means residents can combine all of their recyclable materials (paper, cans, glass and plastics) in one curbside collection bin. Recycling is not just a good idea...it's the law in Sea Isle City.

Sea Isle City's Trash and Recycling Depot, located next to the Bridge on JFK Boulevard, is open seven days a week (7:15 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.). The Depot will be closed on holidays (except New Year's Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day). The Depot will accept drop-offs of trash and recycling, however Bulk Trash is not accepted at that location. **Free Refrigerator Magnets** with a complete list of Sea Isle City's year-round trash and recycling information are now available at the Public Works Building, 3905 Central Avenue, and at the Welcome Center, 300 JFK Boulevard.

For additional information about Sea Isle's trash and recycling regulations, please phone 263-6000, ext.14.

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

If you have questions or concerns, there is no need to wait for an upcoming City Council meeting to express your thoughts. You can contact the head of any City Department to obtain the answers you need. For a complete list of contact information, visit our Municipal Website, www.seaislecitynj.us, or phone City Hall at 263-4461.

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